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**COUNTRY REPORT  
BY  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**To Accelerate IT Development and Improve the Work of National  
People's Congress of People's Republic of China**  
**--Country Report by Mr. Wu Jichuan, Vice Chairman of the Education, Science,  
Culture and Public Health Committee of  
the National People's Congress of China**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of delegation of National People's Congress (NPC) of People's Republic of China, to express my gratitude and appreciation to the host country Thailand for the thoughtful organization and considerate arrangements in IPAIT. I wish this conference a round success.

It is a meaningful conference where congress and parliament members of different countries get together to discuss the role of information technology in promoting the work of parliaments and make exchanges in this regard. Despite differences in political systems and management approaches, a common thing among countries is that they cannot do without the modern information technology.

Currently, information technology has penetrated into each and every area, greatly affecting people's life. IT is playing an increasingly important role in promoting social productivity and economic growth and improving people's living standard. However, IT development is far from fully benefiting people due to its direct dependence on the economic growth of different countries. The big gap between developing and developed countries, the asymmetric information exchanges and imbalance between information-poor and information-rich countries have affected the process of economic globalization.

Friends from congresses and parliaments of different countries shall not only exchange information on IT applications and development but also opportunities and challenges consequential to IT development. The issues of common interest to NPC of China and congresses & parliaments of other countries are: how to coordinate development in different parts of the world, how to bridge digital gap, how to fight against cyber crimes for network security and how to formulate laws and regulations that fit specific situation of different countries to ensure quality and efficient information services provided to people. We would like to take this valuable opportunity to share information and experiences with friends of different countries.

Now, let me introduce you our situation from three aspects:

**I Development of China's Information Industry**

China's information network has been fully digitized. By the end of March, fixed phone users had numbered 280 million, mobile phone users 290 million and Internet users 80 million. We cannot ignore, however, that China is a developing country with 1.3 billion populations, and a large gap exists between the east and west of China and

between the urban and rural areas in terms of economic development and IT applications. As a WTO member, China now has six operators of basic telecom services and thousands of companies providing value-added telecom services. Government regulation is increasingly improved by formulating basic laws and regulations on market management information service. Apart from the big public network, there are also many dedicated information networks such as those for customs, tax, banks and administrative organs, constituting a basic framework for nationwide e-government applications.

The state has clearly identified a development guideline that stresses mutual reinforcement of industrialization and IT development along a socialist industrialization road with Chinese characteristics. According to this guideline, the information industry has become a pillar industry that offers the most employment opportunities and attracts many foreign companies to come to China for manufacturing and R&D cooperation. This momentum will continue. Chinese government supports information industry and welcomes advanced information technology from overseas market. China will actively attract foreign investment and technology and open its market to friends from information industry of other countries in the world.

## II IT Applications in National People's Congress of People's Republic of China

The National People's Congress is the highest state organ of power composed of 2984 elected delegates from provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions. NPC meets once a year and the NPC Standing Committee elected by NPC delegates will execute the highest power after NPC closes. NPC executes power of legislation according to the Constitution, supervises work of the government, the Supreme Court of the People's Republic of China and the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China, and executes the decision-making power on major and important things and the right of appointment. Apart from NPC, there are also People's Congresses at provincial, municipality and autonomous regions level composed of elected representatives from wide circles and channels closely related with the mass people such as local government organs, businesses, rural areas, schools and armies.

Information technologies must be fully used in soliciting suggestions and opinions from all walks of life to bring home the role of democracy. Currently, NPC of China has an internal office information network as a part of e-government applications including an IT system for election, voting and document circulation in NPC and the NPC Standing Committee. The NPC website [www.npc.gov.cn](http://www.npc.gov.cn) is open to the public and makes it easy to get information about NPC. Each NPC delegate has his/her email address to which people can send emails to give their opinions. This is a modern information service means for NPC to solicit opinions from the people. We still need to further improve these information systems, e.g., to increase the network speed and bandwidth and to flesh out information contents.

## III. Legislation on Information

The rapid progress of computer, information and communication technology has been a great driving force for the IT application in the social and economic life of different nations. Information technology touches upon multiple aspects of national economic and social development, such as the improvement of people's living standard, individual privacy and children education. It is unlikely that we can reach the expected goal of IT application without appropriate legal disciplines. The lack of legal constraints may even hinder the advancement of technology and pose negative impacts on people's life. We cannot be successful in keeping an orderly information system having regard to the national sovereignty and human rights without certain laws and regulations. Therefore, NPC of China is engaged in improving the laws and regulations in the above fields, such as the Telecommunication Law, E-signature Law, Internet Security Management Regulations and Management Rules on Internet Access by Minors. We eagerly look forward to the discussions with our friends from different congresses and parliaments on the issues of legislation and enforcement.

Furthermore, we hope to take the opportunity to promote exchanges among members of congresses and parliaments, to learn from one another the good experiences on IT applications and to do a better job in NPC for the IT applications in China.

Thank you.